

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-18 are amended herein.

### **Specification Objection**

The Examiner objected to the specification because the term “comprises” was used in the abstract. The abstract has been amended accordingly. Thus, the objection should be withdrawn.

### **35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,795,369 issued to Taub (“Taub”). Independent claims 1-8 are directed to an air-purifying device. In claims 1-4, the device includes a hollow cylindrical filter made by forming a filter media in a cylindrical shape having an air passage in the central hollow portion so that air supplied into the air passage is discharged substantially uniformly through an annular portion of the hollow cylindrical filter. In claims 5-8, the device includes multiple hollow cylindrical filters positioned in parallel and each being made by forming a filter media in a cylindrical shape having an air passage in the central hollow portion so that air supplied into the air passage is discharged substantially uniformly through an annular portion of the hollow cylindrical filter.

Taub discloses an aerosol filtering system which includes an enclosed filter vessel/housing and a filter located within the housing. The filter includes a fluted filter media which has a plurality of flutes forming a continuous, substantially corrugated shape. The filter housing is a hollow vessel, preferably cylindrical, and is generally constructed of a material that is impervious to fluids. *See, e.g.*, figure 1; col. 2, lines 26-41; col. 4, lines 55-65. Taub also discloses a filtering system which includes a plurality of housings, each housing including a filter

located within it. *See, e.g.*, figures 6 and 8; col. 9, line 59 – col. 10, line 27. The Examiner claims that Taub discloses a hollow cylindrical filter made by forming a filter media in a cylindrical shape and multiple hollow cylindrical filters positioned in parallel and each made by forming a filter media in a cylindrical shape. *See*, Office action dated May 15, 2007 at 2-3. However, Taub does not disclose, teach or suggest a filter media formed in a cylindrical shape, but rather a filter media with a corrugated shape enclosed within a cylindrically shaped housing. In addition, Taub does not disclose, teach or suggest a filter media formed in a cylindrical shape so that air supplied into the air passage is discharged substantially uniformly through an annular portion of the hollow cylindrical filter. Instead, Taub discloses that the treated gas exits the filtering system through an outlet in the top plate of the filter housing or housings. *See, e.g.*, figures 1 and 8; col. 6, lines 32-35; col. 10, lines 4-5, 23-26. The configuration of the present invention allows the purified air to be discharged from the annular portion of the hollow cylindrical filter in a substantially uniform distribution circumferentially. Taub does not disclose, teach or suggest such a configuration. Therefore, claims 1-8, 19 and 20 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the reasons cited above. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 19 and 20 should be allowed.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taub in view of Japanese reference JP 57-134520. Independent claims 9-18 are directed to an air-purifying device that includes a hollow cylindrical filter made by forming a filter media in a cylindrical shape having an air passage in the central hollow portion so that air supplied into the air passage is discharged substantially uniformly through an annular portion of the hollow cylindrical filter. The device also includes a box-shaped hollow casing having a space for the

air to exit the air passage that houses the hollow cylindrical filter. The casing also has a slit in its front plate for the purified air to exit along the central longitudinal line of the plate, and guide plates on both sides of the slit. This configuration allows the air to be discharged from the annular portion of the hollow cylindrical filter in a substantially uniform distribution circumferentially and allows the purified air in the space to exit the slit to form an air curtain.

As mentioned above, Taub does not disclose, teach or suggest a filter media formed in a cylindrical shape so that air supplied into the air passage is discharged substantially uniformly through an annular portion of the hollow cylindrical filter. In addition, Taub does not disclose, teach or suggest a casing having a slit in its front plate for the purified air to exit along the central longitudinal line of the plate. The Examiner claims that the Japanese reference discloses an air purifying device that includes a slit and that it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide a slit with guide plates in the air purifying device of Taub. *See*, Office action dated May 15, 2007 at 3. Although the Japanese reference appears to show a slit in a casing, the configuration does not show a filter media formed in a cylindrical shape so that air supplied into the air passage is discharged substantially uniformly through an annular portion of the hollow cylindrical filter. Therefore, claims 9-18 are patentable over the cited prior art, either alone or in combination, for at least the reasons cited above. Accordingly, claims 9-18 should be allowed.

**CONCLUSION**

All the claim rejections have been addressed and all of the pending claims are allowable for the reasons stated and others. Reconsideration of the application and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant petitions for a three month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge deposit account number 19-4972 in the amount of \$1050.00 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a). Applicant believes that no other fees are due at this time. Please apply any additional charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 19-4972.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: November 15, 2007

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